

instead of one-third as formerly, shall be elected biennially. The Old Constitution, in this respect was like that of the United States, but it was contended, by those who advocated this change, that the term was so long as in a measure to take away the responsibility of Senators to the people for their conduct.

The *third section* apporions representation in the House of Delegates according to population. This principle of representation, now for the first time adopted in this State, although it is a fundamental one in all Republican governments, is restricted in regard to Baltimore City, for fear that her power might become so great as to lead to the passing of laws, either for her own particular benefit, or for the oppression of the Counties.

By the *seventh section*, the regular sessions of the Legislature are a little shortened, by changing the time of meeting. The first two Sessions after the adoption of this Constitution are excepted. It will be observed that, by subsequent provisions, the Legislature will be prevented from occupying its time by the enactment of many local and private laws.

The *fourteenth and fifteenth sections* will give greater publicity to the proceedings of the Legislature.

The *seventeenth section* embraces some of the most useful provisions that are to be found in the whole Constitution. It relates to the manner of passing laws, to their revision and codification, to the manner of amending the code after it is adopted, and to the simplification and abridgment of the rules of Practice, Pleading, Conveyancing, &c. This State has long been suffering for want of a proper codification of its laws. Several attempts indeed have been made, both with and without the aid of the Legislature, but all of them have proved to be failures; and a great and lasting benefit will be conferred upon the people, if the Commissioners for revision faithfully fulfil the duties assigned to them. While several of our sister States have, for many years past, enjoyed the advantage of a well arranged system of laws, framed to suit their advanced state of civilization and liberty, we yet live under some that were framed more than a century ago, many of which have been abolished in England where they originated. The able Report of Mr Kilty, made under the direction of the Legislature, shewing which of the British statutes are in force in Maryland, and which are proper to be incorporated into our laws, will require the attention of the Commissioners for revision.

The *eighteenth section* takes away the restriction upon the Senate from originating money bills, upon the ground perhaps that, as the reason for such a restriction had ceased, the law itself should cease. The remaining part of this section and the *nineteenth section* contain new provisions to prevent laws being passed in too great haste, or without the sanction of a majority of the members of the Legislature, the causes for which provisions may readily be found in the history of past legislation in this State.

The *twenty-first section* prohibits the Legislature from granting divorces, obviously because it would occupy too much time, and because it is properly a judicial act.

The *twentieth and twenty-second sections*, prohibiting the contracting of Public Debt, or the loan of the credit of the State, by the Legislature, will, it is to be hoped, prevent her fair name from being again tarnished as it has been, by a failure to meet her pecuniary obligations to creditors at home and abroad. Honor as well in a State as in an individual, ought to be as zealously guarded as Liberty.